

GYPSY DAMARIS BOSTON IS A LEGEND

by Sarah Hudson Pierce



I have been blest to have a few really good friends in my lifetime!

Gypsy Damaris Boston is one of my best!

I got to know Gypsy back in 1987 when I received a note from her after she read some of my writing.

Gypsy has quite a legacy and I want to write a tribute for her because she has touched my life in so many ways.

I must let you know that she broke her hip on March 6, 2012, at the age of ninety-two, while raking her leaves in her front yard in Ida, La. Now Gypsy has had the same surgery that her mom did after a fall while raking leaves at Gypsy's home in Shreveport at the age of one hundred six. Her mother lived with Gypsy until she was one hundred and ten.

Now isn't that a coincidence or what? Maybe it tells us something about genetics!

I love Gypsy! Who wouldn't?

She is a great story teller and author of children's books, one of which was recently translated into Chinese.

She is of course a prolific writer but she got a good start. She now lives in Ida, La. where she grew up. The house where she now lives in was once the old Ida school house. In fact her dining room used to be the classroom for third graders at one end of the room and fourth graders at the other end. On the first day of school she sat by accident in the fourth grade end instead of the third grade end where she belonged. By the time the mistake was caught she was doing so well that she was left in that class to go on to graduate from high school at the age of fifteen!

She doesn't put on airs either! Gypsy is herself.

There's so much to tell!

I want to include everything I can!

She is a survivor!!!

She is an encourager!!

She loves watching others succeed almost as much as herself!

Her children say that she was always telling them stories as children that had a moral. This is the kind of teaching where children learn without realizing they are being taught.

Her son, Frank, writes stories for publication much like his mom.

Gypsy's mother, Hermoine Gypsy Bell Petty, was also a well known artist in the Shreveport area and a gifted piano teacher.

The story does not stop here!

Her legend dates back to Gypsy's fifth removed great grandmother, Mary Draper Ingles, who was captured by the Indians in July, 1755, by a band of Shawnee warriors who raided Draper's Meadow, a pioneer settlement near modern day Blacksburg, Virginia.

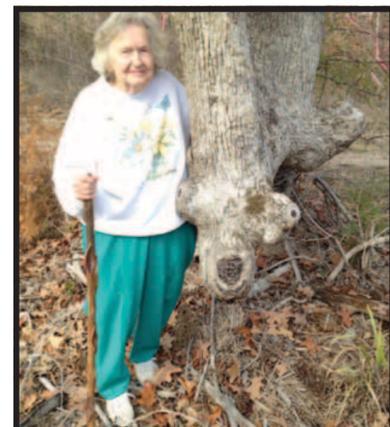
Mary saw her own mother killed. Her two young sons were taken away from her and she was taken far into the uncharted American wilderness to a place west of modern day Cincinnati, Ohio. She eventually escaped with another woman known as the "Dutch Woman." Because she couldn't swim, she had to follow the rivers traveling about 500-600 miles to get back home. It took her about 50 days to get home. When the neighbors found her crawling on the ground they hardly recognized her and picked her up and carried her home where she was reunited with her

husband. Note: After 15 years of searching one of her boys was found and brought back from the Indians. She gave birth to five more children. She seldom left the cabin during the rest of her life.

There was also a television movie titled Follow The River that was filmed of her life back in 1994 and I was awed by the character who played Mary! She said so many of the things I've heard Gypsy say like "it's just too pretty a day not to be happy! "

Gypsy has told me this story so many times I almost know it by heart!

Family stories need to be repeated as part of the family legacy or the legends will be lost. Gypsy has been good for me!



Gypsy Damaris Boston



Gypsy Bell Petty

Sarah Hudson-Pierce

President, Ritz Publications

Published Thursday, April 5, 2012